

## WHO ARE WE

St Michael's Players is one of the longest standing drama groups in London.

We have been staging plays in West London since 1949.

We are a very friendly group and aim to entertain as well as stage high quality productions. Our repertoire is varied and we look to present 3-4 shows a year, which includes our famous 'Panto' in December. We are constantly on the lookout for new members to act, produce, direct, help backstage, help with front of house and with costumes and make up. We rehearse twice a week – rehearsals and performances take place at St Michael's Centre, 60 Elmwood Road, Chiswick, W4 3DZ. Please contact our Chairman Alastair Dewar [alastair.dewar@cgi.com](mailto:alastair.dewar@cgi.com) if you would like to get involved – **WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

## NEWS

Next year; 2019, is a very very special year for us as we turn 70! Watch this space - exciting things are afoot so as to celebrate this amazing achievement – will be back with more news soon.

## WELCOME

It's a big welcome to St Michael's Players for Flora Barker

## WHAT'S NEXT

10th-13th October: Spirit Level by Pam Valentine

8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November: My Darling Boy - revived especially to mark the centenary of the end of WW1

5th-8th December: PANTO TIME! Jack and The Beanstalk

## WHERE TO FIND US

[www.stmichaelsplayers.org](http://www.stmichaelsplayers.org)

Facebook

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**STEP UP!  
STEP OUT!  
STEP TO!**

**ST MICHAEL'S PLAYERS**  
PRESENT

**THE 39 STEPS**

**A LIVE ACTION RADIO PLAY!  
BY JOE LANDRY**

**A RIP-ROARING  
SPY THRILLER  
IN ONE DARING ACT!**

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.  
([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))

## THE 39 STEPS: A LIVE RADIO PLAY

Inspired by Hitchcock's classic tale and performed as a live period radio play, this romantic thriller is a fast-paced ride through the signature world of the Master of Suspense. Richard Hannay is visiting London when he meets Annabella Smith, who is on the run from foreign agents, after a disturbance at a music hall. Later that night, Annabella is murdered and Hannay must then try to break the spy ring and prove his innocence. From an epic train chase to a feisty love interest, Hannay has his work cut out for him as he searches for the truth about The 39 Steps.

*What intrigues me about the radio play concept is that it brings a whole new level of immediacy to live theatre by engaging the audience's senses.*

*"Radio has wings. It has no stage to keep it within the proscenium arch, no camera to confine to things that may be seen," Jerome Lawrence said in his book Off-Mike. "The imagination of the listener is our most ardent and helpful collaborator. It was the theatre of endless possibilities and by bringing this style of theatrical storytelling the audience experiences the magic of a live 1940s radio broadcast. I'd wanted to bring Hitchcock to the stage for years now but wasn't sure of the approach. I considered a biography or stage documentary, but nothing seemed to jell. Then the success of the radio play structure got me thinking that setting Hitchcock's earlier films would nicely fit into the old-time radio period. The blend of simplicity and nostalgia which initially attracted me to the radio play medium continue to inspire me today." Joe Landry Playwright*

The 39 Steps is part of a triple feature entitled *Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play*, which includes adaptations of three early films directed by Alfred Hitchcock: 'The Lodger', 'Sabotage' and 'The 39 Steps'. The production was premiered in Atlanta, Georgia November 2008.





## FOR THE LOVE OF HITCHCOCK

*"Some films are slices of life, mine are slices of cake."*

Who doesn't love a good Hitchcock film? He has inspired generations of film makers, playwrights and beyond, is known for his famous cameos and famously described as 'The Master of Suspense'. But what is it about *The 39 Steps* that has inspired numerous re-makes and adaptations?

Very loosely based on the 1915 adventure novel *The Thirty-Nine Steps* by John Buchan, Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* became a major British film of its time. The subject of the film is definitive Hitchcock thriller -- the "wrong man," in this case Mr. Hannay. What *The 39 Steps* did for Hitchcock is establish a blueprint. Details, plot points, and set pieces are all established that go on to provide a foundation for many of his later works. The wronged man on the run, a woman whose doubt needs reversed and coerced into assistance, showdowns in public venues -- even the act of a man kissing a woman to hide in plain sight from pursuers- all found their footing in *The 39 Steps*.

Hitchcock had already directed more than a dozen features prior to *The 39 Steps*, but it is often regarded as his first Hitchcockian film, in that it is the first film to embody the elements for which the filmmaker is most known. It also has the familiar pacing and feel of a Hitchcock piece, albeit a style in development. He controls the pulse of the narrative with moments of tension and those of humour, lingering on pieces with an eye for detail that enrich the story as much as possible. The film established the quintessential English 'Hitchcock blonde' Madeleine Carroll as the template for his succession of ice cold and elegant leading ladies.

Playwright; Joe Landry, has taken classic Hitchcockian elements and transposed them into the show you are about to see. There is mystery, intrigue, suspense, humour and even a few classic Hitchcock film references thrown in for good measure. Enjoy the show and as Hitchcock famously said *"There is no terror in the bang, only in the anticipation of it."*



## MARC PEARCE DIRECTOR

Welcome to tonight's performance of *The 39 Steps*. When it looked like we had a gap in our Summer schedule I stepped in with the idea of putting on a live radio play. I found this condensed version of the story and thought this would make a great night out for a Summer's evening; not knowing at the time just how balmy the weather would turn. We have put this production together in just two weeks with a huge amount of effort from all my cast and crew. Although we have wonderful costumes and signage for your amusement I do also recommend closing your eyes for periods of time and allowing the voices and sounds to transport you back 80 years. So please sit back, relax, with your glass of Pimm's, or beverage of choice and enjoy the show.

**JOE LANDRY'S  
THE 39 STEPS:  
A LIVE RADIO PLAY**

**Cast in order of appearance:**

Announcer	Paul Smith
Music Hall Manager & Others!	Andy Murray
Mr Memory & Professor Bartlett	Alastair Dewar
Richard Hannay	Guy Fairbank
Anabella Smith	Elizabeth Ollier
Train Conductor, The Doctor & Others!	Bryony Wilman
Policeman, Innkeeper & Others!	Sheila Churchill
Henchman, The Detective & Others!	Harry Doyle
Pamela Stuart	Flora Barker

The "ad-libs" & Sound Effects Trio!  
Pihu Dubè, Jo Harry, Sue Darrieulat

Designed & Directed by - Marc Pearce

Sound Operator - Louisa Barrett

Stage Technician – Utku Er

Publicity & Social Media - Fleur de Henrie Pearce

Programme, Costume/Prop Design – Fleur de Henrie Pearce

Front of House & Bar – Members & Friends of St Michael's Players

**RUNNING ORDER**

The 39 Steps: A Live Radio Play is One Act: approximately 1 hour

**There is no interval**

**SPECIAL THANKS**

St Michael's Church

Pennie Bayliss and Barnes Community Players for costume hire

